



# GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

## MINUTES

February 11, 2021

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:31PM via ZOOM teleconference. He stated that the meeting is held virtually pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act and Oakland County Health Department orders.

### 2. Roll Call

#### Members Present

Representing Keego Harbor:

Ashley Attisha (attending in the City of Keego Harbor, Oakland County, Michigan)

Representing Orchard Lake:

Anne Dziuba (attending in the City of Orchard Lake, Oakland County, Michigan)

Dan Krause (attending in the City of Orchard Lake, Oakland County, Michigan)

Representing Sylvan Lake:

Phil Ross (attending in the City of Sylvan Lake, Oakland County, Michigan)

Representing West Bloomfield:

Harvey Gersin (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)

Nada Jamoua (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)

Mark Kowalsky (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)

Suzanne Levine (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)

Deborah Macon (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)

Jonathan Warshay (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)

#### Members Absent

#### Others in Attendance

Dave Scott (General Manager, Civic Center TV/Lakes FM), David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. Attisha to the Commission and stated that she had recently been appointed by the Keego Harbor City Council to represent the city. At his invitation, Ms. Attisha introduced herself to the other commissioners, and they introduced themselves to her.

### 3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Warshay, support from Ms. Levine:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the February 11, 2021 meeting.”

Voting YES: Attisha, Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross,  
Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

#### **4. Public Comment**

The Chairperson stated that residents are provided an opportunity to address the Commission regarding cable-related issues at the beginning and the end of each meeting. Those unable to attend should contact the Commission at [gwbcable.org](http://gwbcable.org).

No member of the public asked to address the Commission.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Mr. Ross, support from Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting, the February 1, 2021 joint meeting, and the February 2, 2021 meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Attisha, Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross,  
Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

#### **6. Acceptance of Financial Reports**

The Executive Director presented the reports, the first for January of 2021 and second for January through December 2020.

Motion by Mr. Warshay, support from Nada Jamoua:

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Attisha, Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross,  
Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

#### **7. Committee Reports**

The Chairperson stated that this portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for committees to report to the Commission.

Report of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mr. Kowalsky, the committee chairperson. Mrs. Macon clarified the report's reference to copyrighting the terms "Splash" and "Megacast", adding that Mr. Scott will be consulted for his thoughts.

Committee Recommendation:

"That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission amend its 2021 meeting schedule by changing the starting time of all Commission meetings from 7:30PM to 6:30PM."

Report of the Community Programming Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mrs. Dziuba, the committee chairperson.

Motion by Mr. Warshay, support from Mr. Krause:

"That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the reports of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning and Community Programming committees and consider committee recommendations under New Business later in this meeting."

Voting YES: Attisha, Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross,  
Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

**8. Executive Director's Report**

Civic Center TV/Lakes FM

Mr. Scott addressed the Commission regarding the operation of Civic Center TV and Lakes FM, focusing on the installation of Chamber of Commerce officers and United We Walk in January, the upcoming vaccine townhall and a Parks and Recreation cooking show for Black History Month later in February, the State of the Communities in late March, and the Michigan Week Awards in May.

He also noted the upcoming transition of Lakes FM into the television studio at Green Media Center, making the Megacast look better for TV and allowing one person to host and produce the show. Also mentioned was the new West Bloomfield fiber optic wide area network and the ramifications for Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake meeting coverage. Mr. Scott stated that it was his honor and pleasure to be able to broadcast the West Bloomfield Lakers championship football game from Ford Field in January.

### Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of communications from Comcast regarding price increases, channel line-up changes, and its “Lift Zones” initiative bringing internet service to community centers in low-income areas.

### GWBCCC Directory

Members were provided an updated directory of Commission membership, contractors, and committee assignments.

### Cable Industry News

President Biden has appointed Commissioner Jennifer Rosenworcel as acting chair of the FCC. The Commission will therefore have two Democrats and two Republicans until the nomination of another Democrat as the fifth member. The new FCC is expected to exhibit less of a de-regulatory agenda than the body under Republican leadership. Whether that might include rescinding the 2019 franchise fee order remains to be seen.

Comcast’s plans to impose a data cap on internet subscribers in 12 northeastern states has been delayed until July. Subscribers in the other 27 states in the company’s footprint have been subject to the same caps since 2016.

Comcast is increasing its efforts to bring broadband to underserved communities through higher speeds for its Internet Essentials subscribers, the establishment of “Lift Zones”, community centers equipped with internet service for public use, and grants to digital equity and social justice organizations.

### Communication

No communication was received.

### Commission Assistance to Residents

Two telecommunications pedestals in the back yard of a home in West Bloomfield are being impacted by the growth of a tree branch, one to the point where it has been forced open, exposing the wiring inside. The pedestals belong to Comcast and AT&T, and both companies have been asked to rectify the situation.

A resident was having difficulty closing the account for a deceased parent, including the return of Comcast equipment. At the Commission’s request, the company resolved the situation.

Two subscribers contacted the Commission regarding recent significant price increases, and in each case, the expiration of a promotional deal was the reason. Comcast worked with the

Commission to contact the residents, explain the billing, including what items are and are not included in promotional agreements, and reconfigure the service.

### Preview

The Executive Director presented his agenda for the time period between this meeting and the next.

Mrs. Macon related accolades from West Bloomfield Board of Education Trustee Christy Forhan regarding Laker Football broadcasts on Lakes FM.

In response to her question regarding the impact of the new radio/TV studio, Mr. Scott stated that the reconfiguration will benefit both Civic Center TV and Lakes FM, improving programming on both resources as well as increasing studio rental opportunities for audio and video podcasts as well as other programming.

Mrs. Macon suggested that any segment of the State of the Communities dealing with school districts include all districts in the Greater West Bloomfield area.

In response to her question regarding Comcast Lift Zones, the Executive Director stated that currently all southeast Michigan locations are in the city of Detroit and that the initiative is not directly related to Internet Essentials.

Mrs. Macon thanked the Executive Director for his assistance regarding the two pedestals in her back yard.

Mr. Ross commended Mr. Scott for the Lakes FM coverage of Laker Football.

Mr. Warshay stated that the West Bloomfield Township Board adopted a resolution in support of Sunshine Week at its February 8 meeting. He added that AT&T, unlike Comcast, does include on the monthly bill all promotional deals and the expiration of those agreements.

Mrs. Dziuba noted needed revisions to the GWBCCC directory.

Ms. Levine thanked Civic Center TV for its coverage of the installation of Chamber of Commerce officers in January and noted the advantages of the virtual format and the contributions of Ronnie Dahl in interviewing the Board members.

## **9. Unfinished Business**

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

## 10. New Business

### Election of Secretary

Motion by Mr. Gersin, support from Ms. Levine:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission elect Ashley Attisha of Keego Harbor as Secretary.”

Voting YES: Attisha, Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross,  
Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

The Executive Director thanked Ms. Jamoua for serving as Secretary for a short period of time until Keego Harbor appointed a representative to the Commission.

### Committee Appointments

Motion by Mr. Gersin, support from Mr. Warshay:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the appointment of Ashley Attisha of Keego Harbor to the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning and Community Programming committees.”

Voting YES: Attisha, Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross,  
Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

### Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – Amendment of 2021 GWBCCC Meeting Schedule

The Chairperson presented the recommendation.

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission amend its 2021 meeting schedule by changing the starting time of all Commission meetings from 7:30PM to 6:30PM.”

Motion by Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission amend its 2021 meeting schedule by changing the starting time of all Commission meetings from 7:30PM to 6:30PM.”

Mrs. Macon asked whether the recommendation is an accurate representation of what the

committee approved at its February 1 meeting, specifically that the time change applies only to virtual meetings.

Mr. Ross stated that since the 2021 schedule notes all Commission meetings as virtual, the recommendation does address virtual meetings only.

Mr. Kowalsky stated that the recommendation is identical to the action taken by the committee and that it applies only to 2021 meetings, which the Commission has already declared virtual until the end of the year.

Voting YES: Attisha, Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Ross, Warshay

Voting NO: Macon

The motion carried.

### **11. Public Comment**

The Chairperson stated that residents are provided an opportunity to address the Commission regarding cable-related issues at the beginning and the end of each meeting.

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

### **12. Commissioner Comments**

Ms. Levine reported the upcoming virtual Covid Vaccine Townhall at 9:00AM on Thursday, February 18 on Civic Center TV, Lakes FM, and Facebook live, sponsored by Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital and West Bloomfield Township. She thanked Civic Center TV for its support, and Mr. Scott noted the contributions of Tyler Kieft.

Mrs. Macon reported that nominations for 2021 Michigan Week awards are open until March 8. The Executive Director added that any questions regarding nominations can be directed to the committee via the contact form at [michiganweek.org](http://michiganweek.org).

### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:46PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021**, at **6:30PM** via **ZOOM** teleconference.